

*Homegoing Service
In Honor of*

*Sunrise
July 23, 1926*

*Sunset
April 6, 2008*

Beverly Joyce Barker

Service

Friday, April 11, 2008 - 11:00 a.m.

ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH

588 King Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey

Rev. William D. Watley, Officiating

Obituary

Beverly J. Barker was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 23, 1926 to the late Thomas and Violet R. Bailey. She is the widow of the late David G. Barker. She attended 18th Avenue grammar school, Cleveland Junior High School, Central High School in Newark, and Kean College in Union, NJ.

As a young girl, Beverly loved to dance and attended many of the social activities that were available. Beverly learned to cook at the age of four because she wanted to eat breakfast as soon as she woke up. That was the beginning of her independent streak which carried forth when her older brother, Tommy began to tease her. She developed her quick wit as a way to protect herself since she was the younger and smaller of the two. She was "Bev" with an easy smile and a distinguished style. Clothes and shoes were her passion which continued throughout her life.

Beverly worked nights at Western Electric and later at PSE&G where she worked for eighteen years as a Customer Representative, before taking an early retirement in 1988. While working at PSE&G she decided that she wanted to achieve her lifelong goal of obtaining a college degree. She enrolled at Kean College. For six years Bev took classes in the evening as she pursued this goal. In 1986 she graduated, at the age of sixty, with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management. What a wonderful time that was for Bev, her family and friends.

Beverly was a "Volunteer Extraordinaire" and served as a member of many organizations. She was an active long time member of St. James AME Church in East Orange, NJ. She was a life Member of the National Council of Negro Women, past President and life member of the Ladies Auxiliary Post 9015, Treasure of the Committee 100 Ebony Fashion Show, volunteer at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Board President for fifteen years of The Chen School, New Jersey Court Watch Volunteer for Battered Women, member of Prince Hall Eastern Star and Daughter of Isis. She was one of the Founding members of the Crispus Attucks Society. In 2000 she was Grand Marshall of the Black Heritage Parade.

She also served as an officer of Black Women United and The Metro Newark Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women. She was Vice-President of the Tenants Organization at her residence in East Orange.

She loved to travel and for many years vacationed in February at St. Thomas, VI. In 1976 she and a group of friends journeyed at Senegal in West Africa. She traveled to many states attending conventions of the Prince Hall Eastern Star. In 2006, her, her daughter, and granddaughter, Shelly, cruised to the Eastern Caribbean Islands. In recent years she vacationed at Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

Beverly's battle with cancer began three weeks after the death of her granddaughter, Shelly, and the disease progressed quickly. On April 6, 2008 Beverly passed at St. Cloud Health Care Center in West Orange, NJ. She had just been admitted the day before. She was a resident in East Orange, NJ for fifty six years.

She was predeceased by her sister Thomas R. Irby, Jr. and grandchild Michelle D. Fountain.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia R. Wells and her husband, Walter of Scotch Plains, NJ, Celeste Williams and her husband, Robert of San Bernardino, CA; her grandchildren, Corey Wells and his wife Renee of Clinton, NJ, Nicole D. Wells of Plainfield, NJ, Walter L. Wells, Jr. and his wife LaToshia of Piscataway, NJ, Keith and John Anderson, and Carla Crawford; seventeen great-grandchildren; one great great-grandchild; her loving companion, James "Ted" Branch; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

<i>Musical Prelude</i>	<i>Organist</i>
<i>Processional</i>	<i>Clergy & Family</i>
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	<i>"We'll Understand It Better By and By"</i>
<i>Prayer of Comfort</i>	
<i>Scripture Readings</i> <i>Old Testament</i> <i>New Testament</i>	
<i>Solo "Sing Me To Sleep"</i>	<i>Ruth Dargan</i>
<i>Resolution</i> <i>& Acknowledgments</i>	<i>Church Officer</i>
<i>Remarks &</i> <i>Family Tribute</i>	<i>Trish Morris-Yamba</i> <i>Honorable JoAnne Watson</i> <i>Nicole Wells</i>
<i>Obituary</i>	<i>Nicole Wells</i>
<i>Solo "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"</i>	<i>Ruth Dargan</i>
<i>Eulogy</i>	<i>Rev. William D. Watley, PhD</i>
<i>Recessional</i>	<i>Clergy & Family</i>

Interment

Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

Friends are invited to join the family for repast at:
St. James AME Church, NJ.

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

*I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*



Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all expressions of
sympathy during this time of bereavement.*

Your caring and kindness is appreciated and will be remembered.

Professional Services Entrusted To
James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home

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